

EOA CRITERIA DEFINITIONS, as specified in 402 CMR 2.03:

Blighted Open Area - a predominantly open area which is detrimental to the safety, health, welfare or sound growth of a community and which is predominantly open because it is unduly costly to develop it soundly through the ordinary operations of private enterprise. Factors which might make an area unduly expensive to develop include, but are not limited to, existence of hazardous materials or other contaminants; existence of ledge, rock, unsuitable soil, or other physical conditions; need for unduly expensive excavation, fill or grading; need for unduly expensive foundations or retaining walls, need for unduly expensive waterproofing, drainage or flood prevention measures; need for unduly expensive measures to protect adjacent areas and the water tables therein; need for unduly expensive measures incident to building around or over rights-of-way through the area; existence of obsolete, inappropriate or otherwise faulty platting or subdividing; deterioration of site improvements or facilities; division of the area rights-of-way; diversity of ownership; inadequate transportation facilities; inadequate utility systems; tax and special assessment delinquencies; a substantial change in business or economic conditions or practices; an abandonment or cessation of work begun on improvements; any combination of the above; or any other condition or conditions which are detrimental to the safety, health, or sound growth of a community.

Decadent Area - an area which is detrimental to safety, health, welfare or sound growth of a community because of the existence of buildings which are out of repair, physically deteriorated, unfit for human habitation, obsolete, or in need of major maintenance or repair; or because much of the real estate in recent years has been sold or taken for non-payment of taxes or upon foreclosure of mortgages; or because buildings have been torn down and not replaced and in which under existing conditions it is improbable that the buildings will be replaced; or because of a substantial change in business or economic conditions; or because of inadequate light, air, or open space; or because of excessive land coverage; or because diversity of ownership, irregular lot sizes, or obsolete street patterns make it improbable that the area will be redeveloped by the ordinary operations of private enterprise; or by reason of any combination of the foregoing conditions.

Substandard Area - an area wherein dwellings predominate which, by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, faulty arrangement or design, lack of ventilation, light, or sanitation facilities, or any combination of these factors, are detrimental to safety, health, welfare or sound growth of a community.

Cumulative Job Loss: has experienced a plant closing or permanent layoff resulting in a job loss of two thousand or more within the four years prior to designation as an EOA or the municipality has sited within it a generation facility, as defined pursuant to section 1 of chapter 164, which has a market value at the time of sale that is at least 50 per cent less than its current net book value.